

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method, comprising:
 - receiving image data at a digital video camera;
 - an encoder of the digital video camera compressing the image data into an encoded information stream capable of carrying at least 8.5 frames/second in which no frame depends on a previous frame by performing intra frame encoding; and
 - transmitting the encoded information stream from the digital video camera to a computer system via a Universal Serial Bus (USB) while consuming no more than approximately 4 Mbits/second of USB bandwidth.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the compression of the image data includes performing spatial prediction, using customizable quantization, and using fixed-length symbols.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the compression of the image data provides near-lossless compression.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the compression of the image data uses Differential Pulse Code Modulation (DPCM).
5. An apparatus, comprising:
 - a receiver to receive image data;
 - an encoder, coupled to the receiver, to compress the image data into an encoded information stream capable of carrying at least 8.5 frames/second in which

no frame depends on a previous frame by performing intra frame encoding; and

a transmitter, coupled to the encoder and the receiver, to transmit the encoded information stream from the digital video camera to a computer system via a Universal Serial Bus (USB) while consuming no more than approximately 4 Mbits/second of USB bandwidth.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, further comprises customizable quantization and fixed-length symbols to perform spatial prediction to compress the image data.
7. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the compression of the image data provides near-lossless compression.
8. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the compression of the image data uses Differential Pulse Code Modulation (DPCM).
9. A system, comprising:

a digital video camera having an encoder and a transmitter, the digital video camera to receive image data;

the encoder to compress the image data into an encoded information stream capable of carrying at least 8.5 frames/second in which no frame depends on a previous frame by performing intra frame encoding; and

the transmitter to transmit the encoded information stream from the digital video camera to a computer system via a Universal Serial Bus (USB) while consuming no more than approximately 4 Mbits/second of USB bandwidth.

10. The system of claim 9, further comprises customizable quantization and fixed-length symbols to perform spatial prediction to compress the image data.
11. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the compression of the image data provides near-lossless compression.
12. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the compression of the image data uses Differential Pulse Code Modulation (DPCM).